



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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### NEWS RELEASE

October 14, 2011

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#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **Racial Justice Improvement Project Task Force Members to Meet in Washington, DC, to Discuss Implementation of Proposed Reforms**

One year ago, the American Bar Association awarded St. Louis County, as well as three other jurisdictions across the country, a grant aimed at implementing a local racial justice improvement task force. The task force is to be focused on addressing community problems that contribute to the racially disparate impact of the criminal justice system. The St. Louis County task force is comprised of representation from the St. Louis County Attorney's Office, the Office of the Public Defender, Arrowhead Regional Corrections, the Duluth Police Department, judges from the Sixth Judicial District, and members of the local American Indian community.

The Racial Justice Improvement Project (RJIP) in St. Louis County is addressing over-representation of African American and Native American arrestees in pretrial detention and the disparate (higher) bail imposed on individuals from those groups.

On October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011, all four jurisdictions who were awarded a grant will come together in Washington, DC, to discuss how to implement the proposed reforms during the second year of the grant. Members of the local RJIP who will attend include:

- **Honorable John DeSanto**, Sixth Judicial District Court;
- **Mark S. Rubin**, St. Louis County Attorney;
- **Fred Friedman**, Chief Public Defender, Sixth Judicial District;
- **Dan Bartlett**, Felony Probation and Parole Unit Supervisor, Arrowhead Regional Corrections;
- **Donna Ennis**, Regional Director, North Homes Children and Family Services;
- **Rebecca St. George**, Task Force Coordinator, ABA Racial Justice Improvement Project.

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